

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A moisture-reducing device for print
2 media comprising:
3 a paper tray for containing and supporting the print media, the paper tray
4 including a recess formed in an interior of the paper tray; and
5 a desiccant contained in the paper tray recess proximate to the print media
6 for absorbing moisture from the environment of the paper tray.
- 1 2. (Original) The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the
2 desiccant further comprises a silica gel.
- 1 3. (Original) The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the
2 desiccant further comprises an activated alumina.
- 1 4. (Original) The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the
2 desiccant further comprises a lithium chloride salt.
- 1 5. (Original) The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the
2 desiccant further comprises a pre-packaged desiccant.
- 1 6. (Original) The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the
2 paper tray is lined with the desiccant.
- 1 7. (Original) The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the
2 desiccant further comprises a molded panel.
- 1 8. (Cancelled) The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the
2 paper tray further comprises:
3 a recess formed in the interior of the paper tray; and
4 the desiccant placed in the recess of the tray proximate to the print media.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The moisture-reducing device of Claim 8
2 1 further comprising a panel including a plurality of apertures covering the
3 desiccant placed in the recess.

1 10. (Original) The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 further
2 comprising:
3 an air passage pneumatically connected to the paper tray;
4 a heating element pneumatically connected to the air passage;
5 a blower pneumatically connected to the air passage for pressurizing an
6 air flow across the heating element into the paper tray directing a pressurized air
7 flow across the desiccant for purging accumulated moisture from the desiccant.

1 11. (Original) The moisture-reducing device of Claim 10 further
2 comprising a humidity sensor connected to the heating element, the heating
3 element responsive to a signal from the humidity sensor indicating that a
4 moisture level of the desiccant equals a pre-selected moisture level.

1 12. (Original) The moisture-reducing device of Claim 10 wherein the
2 heating element further comprises an intermittently operating heating element.

1 13. (Original) An image forming device comprising:
2 a controller contained within a housing;
3 a print engine including a developer assembly connected to and
4 operatively responsive to the controller;
5 a paper tray attachable to the housing for containing and supporting a
6 media, the paper tray including a recess formed in an interior of the paper tray;
7 a media transport mechanism contained within the housing for picking the
8 media from the paper tray and transporting the media through the print engine;
9 and
10 a desiccant contained in the paper tray recess proximate to the media for
11 absorbing moisture from the environment of the paper tray.

1 14. (Original) The image forming device of Claim 13 further
2 comprising:
3 an air passage pneumatically connected to the paper tray;
4 a heating element positioned within the air passage;
5 a blower pneumatically connected to the air passage for pressurizing an
6 air flow across the heating element and into the paper tray directing a pressurized
7 air flow across the desiccant purging accumulated moisture from the desiccant.

1 15. (Original) The image forming device of Claim 14 further
2 comprising a humidity sensor connected to the heating element, the heating
3 element responsive to a signal from the humidity sensor indicating that a
4 moisture level of the desiccant equals a pre-selected moisture level.

1 16. (Original) The image forming device of Claim 14 wherein the
2 heating element further comprising an intermittently operating heating element.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The image forming device of Claim 13
2 wherein the heating element operates in response to a signal from the controller
3 responsive to a pre-selected number of image forming cycles.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The ~~moisture-reducing~~ image forming
2 device of Claim 13 wherein the desiccant further comprises a silica gel.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The ~~moisture-reducing~~ image forming
2 device of Claim 13 wherein the desiccant further comprises an activated alumina.

1 20. (Currently Amended) The ~~moisture-reducing~~ image forming
2 device of Claim 13 wherein the desiccant further comprises a lithium chloride salt.